ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method for transferring and expressing heterologous DNA in a non-plant host cell. The vector used in this method includes a backbone having a first origin of replication capable of maintaining heterologous DNA as a single copy in an *Escherichia coli* host cell. The vector further includes a unique restriction endonuclease cleavage site for insertion of heterologous DNA, and left and right *Agrobacterium* T-DNA border sequences flanking the unique restriction endonuclease cleavage site. In certain host cells, the T-DNA border sequences allow introduction of heterologous DNA located between the left and right T-DNA border sequences into a host cell. In preferred embodiments, the vector includes a second origin of replication capable of maintaining heterologous DNA as a single copy in a host cell such as *Agrobacterium* species or other prokaryotic cells.